

Please add the following heading on Page 6, as Line 1, of the present application:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

In The Claims:

- A*
1. A composition which regulates the inflammatory response of enterocytes, the composition containing as an active agent a lactic acid bacteria strain capable of decreasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacterial LPS.
- Su*
2. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said strain is also capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.
3. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is an *L. casei* strain.
4. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said bacterial strain is the *L casei* strain CNCM I-1518.
5. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a food supplement.
6. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein said composition is in the form of a fermented dairy product.
- ✓*
7. Process for screening novel lactic acid bacterial strains which have properties which modulate non-specific immunity, which comprises selecting lactic acid bacteria strains capable of inhibiting the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacteria LPS.

*cont*  
8. Process according to Claim 7, which also comprises a step of selecting strains capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.

*Arv*  
9. Process according to Claim 7, wherein said strains are screened using cultures of lactic acid bacteria chosen from the group consisting of lactobacilli, lactococci, streptococci and bifidobacteria.

Please add the following new claims:

*A20*  
10. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of whole bacteria which may or may not be living.

11. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of a bacterial lysate.

12. A composition according to Claim 1, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of bacterial fractions.

*✓*  
13. A method for producing a composition which regulates the inflammatory response of enterocytes, the method comprising formulating a composition containing as an active agent a lactic acid bacteria strain capable of decreasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines and bacterial LPS.

*Sed B*  
14. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of whole bacteria which may or may not be living.

15. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of a bacterial lysate.

A3 *Claim 17*  
16. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the lactic acid bacteria is in the form of bacterial fractions.

*SuJ B'*  
17. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the formulating step comprises formulating a food supplement containing the lactic acid bacteria.

18. A method according to Claim 13, wherein the formulating step comprises formulating a fermented dairy product containing the lactic acid bacteria.

19. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said strain is also capable of increasing the production of NO by cultures of enterocytes preactivated with pro-inflammatory cytokines.

20. A method according to Claim 13, wherein said bacterial strain is an *L. casei* strain.